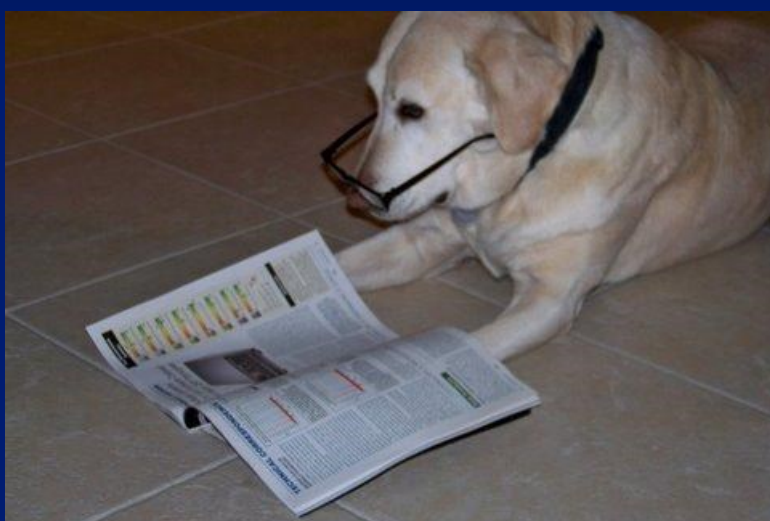


San Diego DX Club Bulletin



March 2013



I need a new radio
to win some of
those dog fights on
20m

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

PROGRAM:

DAN, N6ERD WILL DISCUSS BEVERAGE ANTENNAS ON CITY LOTS

MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER

AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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President:

John Barcroft, K6AM

(858) 587-8061

k6am@arrl.net

Vice President:

Dan Severance

daniel_severance@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ellen Utschig, N6UWW

(760) 721-2927

elenalaloca@cox.net

Past President:

Gayle Olson, K6GO

(858) 673-9201

k6go@arrl.net

Board of Directors:

Harry Hodges, W6YOO

(760) 743-4212

w6yoo@cox.net

Bob Grimmick, N6OX

(949) 573-1070

n6ox@yahoo.com

Les Nuhn, NN6K

(619) 467-4510

rttyman@aol.com

Ladder:

John Barcroft, K6AM

k6am@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Arnie Lewin, W7BIA

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

(760) 749-3936

k6na@cts.com

Bulletin Editor:

Ron Stockton, N0RR

(760) 224-7139

rjstockton@cox.net

A Word from the Prez . . .

John Barcroft, K6AM



After starting out with a bang 2 years ago year, cycle 24 just can't seem to sustain any momentum. There have been a few good days but we were expecting daily long openings to Europe on 10 meters by now. Conditions during the ARRL DX contests last month were good for me down in the Caribbean, but back home in San Diego, reports were not that good. Let's hope it gets better over the next few years.

Everything is pretty much in place for the Visalia convention. You can view and print out the entire convention schedule at the website, dxconvention.com. Pre-registration has been going well and they are expecting as big a crowd as ever. If you signed up for the Sat night banquet, remember to send in your seating request. See the web site for details. Friday night Contest, Top Band, and IOTA dinners are also available.

The Summer Bash is coming up in August and it's our turn to host a party for a hundred or so DX'ers. Would any of youse guys or gals like to have the party at your place? Let me know in the next week or so or I will have to start twis... er, I mean "incentivizing" people.

Made it back safely from my 3 weeks in the Caribbean at ZF2AM and PJ2T. Thanks to the many club members who called in during the ARRL DX CW, CQWW 160 SSB and ARRL DX SSB contests. You all made a difference.

The Sizzler appears to be still standing for at least another month. Stay tuned and we'll see you there.

73, John, K6AM

Treasurers Report

Ellen, N6UWW



Another full house crowd (46) met at Sizzler for the February 27th meeting. President K6AM was absent (prepping PJ2T for ARRL DX 'test) as was Secretary/Treasurer N6UWW (work) so in their absence, VP N6ERD dubbed Wild Bill WB6BFG as Master of Ceremonies.

Guests were introduced: Gayle K6GO introduced her fiancé Mike NA6MB (Congratulations!) and his daughter, Elizabeth, Miguel KJ6YSI, Steve W6SMK, Bill W6RJS, Phil AF6AV.

N6KI announced tentative plans for a multi-multi at W6HCD QTH for ARRL DX contest (dependent on Nash's health). Dennis will be giving his MARS presentation 3/7 at the SOBARS meeting and his "Contesting 101" will be given 3/14 at El Cajon ARC meeting.

Dues are due and Wild Bill collected in the absence of the Treasurer (\$20 single - \$30 family). Round Table discussion ensued. Don't forget to register for Visalia. Note the new location is the Visalia Convention Center. Early registration ends April 10th. Early banquet seating is also available. All the information is available at www.dxconvention.com.

Treasurer's Report

2013 Dues are now being accepted. Individual dues are \$20 and family dues are \$30. Please send checks payable to SAN DIEGO DX CLUB c/o Ellen Utschig 2104 Poplar Rd Oceanside, CA 92058-2332 Note: There is no PayPal option this year. So far 69 members have renewed, 14 are past due & one has decided not to renew as he is pursuing other interests at this time.

Statement Balance 2/28/2013 \$7137.78

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Ron, N0RR

Thanks to everyone that provided input for this month's bulletin, particularly Gayle K6GO, Ellett W0NI, Rick K0XB/6, Jim K6ZH, and Carl K9LA. I have material for the April issue, but nothing for May and beyond, so please continue sending me content, particularly those personal stories, articles and photos.

In my opinion there are two enablers for the "around-the-world" HF DXing that we know and love. One is spectrum allocation and the other is ionospheric propagation. Although our frequencies have been around for a long time, they are NOT an entitlement. The ARRL, IARU and other organizations have to justify these at every World Radio Administrative Conference and fight with competing services for exclusive usage and new allocations. So with these facts in mind, I encourage everyone to contribute whatever you can to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

Regarding propagation, there was an interesting article in the February issue of QST entitled "Listening to the Sun" beginning on page 39. It provides insight into the relevance, history, measurement technique and equipment used to measure the 2,800 MHz solar flux index.

The March issue also had an informative article by K9LA entitled "The Sun and the Ionosphere" beginning on page 48. Here Carl addresses the correlation between the sun, the solar flux index and the ionosphere and concludes that the daily maximum useable frequency (MUF) is not well correlated to the daily 10.7 cm solar flux. Much better correlation is achieved using the monthly median (smoothed) values of the 2,800 MHz solar flux or sunspot number. He concludes by mentioning the role of other contributing factors, processes involving geomagnetic field activity and events in the lower atmosphere coupling up to the ionosphere that affect electron density.

Enough of the technical jargon, read on and enjoy the stories and pictures from and about our members.

Ron, N0RR

THE SDDXC TOP 10—by John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 80 METERS

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 20 METERS

3/13	3/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG	3/13	3/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	N6ND	40	249	254	301	-	1.	1.	W6YA	40	340	380	380	+2
2.	2.	W6YA	40	?	?	301	+4	2.	2.	N6CW	40	?	360	364	-
3.	3.	W7DD	40	?	?	297	-	3.	3.	N6ND	40	329	343	354	-
4.	4.	K6NA	40	?	?	292	-	4.	4.	W6YI	40	334	350	353	+2
5.	6.	K6XT	40	279	282	282	+22	5.	5.	K6AM	40	339	348	348	-
6.	5.	W6YI	40	265	269	282	+8	6.	6.	K9RHY	40	336	347	347	-
7.	7.	K6AM	40	241	244	248	+1	7.	7.	W6YOO	40	337	345	345	-
8.	8.	N7CW	40	222	222	244	-	8.	8.	K0XB	40	333	342	343	+1
9.	9.	N6CW	40	?	211	236	-	9.	-	K5OA	40	315	333	336	NEW
10.	-	K0XB	37	172	174	183	NEW	10.	9.	K6ZH	40	324	332	336	+3

The race for the top spot on 80 heats up as Jim, W6YA breaks the 300 barrier to pull into a tie with long time leader Rick, N6ND. In case of a tie, we look at the CFM column for the highest totals there. Several other players check in with some nice jumps as well.

As those new entities finally got into the reports, we see a couple of small jumps on 20, but the leader board remains cast in stone. Some of the C-D scores may still include the now deleted MV Island, Please update your scores to show the newly added and deleted countries.

Each month, we publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 15 meters, and the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meet-

2012 ARRL DX SSB CONTEST SDDXC RESULTS

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	
SO HP	K6NA	604,443	751	269	#1 SW Div
	N6NC	24,528	120	73	
SO LP	NN3V	329,640	685	164	#1 W6/W7, #1 SW Div
SO-A HP	K5OA	458,796	709	221	
	AF6WF	68,688	221	106	
	N6XT	42,300	153	100	
	KY6LA	30,258	125	82	
SO-A LP	WN6K	525,930	755	235	#1 W6/W7, #1 SW Div
SOSB-40	ZF2AH (W6VNR)	394,710	2,257	59	#1 World
	W6YI	257,928	986	88	#1 SW Div, #2 US/VE
MS HP	PJ2T (K6AM, W0CG)	8,998,236	8,708	348	#1 World
	NX6T (AF6WF, K6KAL, WQ6X, K6GO, N6OHS, KL7SB, NN6X, N6EEG, KD6HYN, N6KI)	1,410,825	1,468	325	#1 W6/W7, #1 SW Div



How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's, (Bernie) newsletter.

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
3B9DX	40	7-Mar	0202-LP	W6YA	XT2TT	Many	Many	Many	W6YA
3B9DX	80 CW	9-Mar	1422	N0RR					
5T0JL	30	14-Mar	0054	W6YA					
9M4SLL	80 CW	13-Mar	1142	N0RR					
9M4SLL	Many	Many	Many	W6YA					
9U4U	Many	Many	Many	W6YA					
9X0NH	30	6-Mar	0500	W6YA					
CU7MD	20 SSB	17-Mar	0017	W6YI					
H40T	80 CW	18-Mar	1340	N0RR					
H40T	10 CW	22-Mar	0017	N0RR					
HS0ZIA	80 CW	10-Mar	1337	N0RR					
J5UAP	30	10-Mar	0456	W6YA					
JX9JKA	20 SSB	15-Mar	0003	W6YI					
MU0GSY	15 SSB	14-Mar	2057	W6YI					
S21XV	20	7-Mar	0256	W6YA					
T6MO	20	10-Mar	1528	W6YA					
TX5K	80 CW	3-Mar	1334	N0RR					
TX5K	Many	Many	Many	W6YA					
XR0YG	10 CW	24-Mar	0008	K6NA					
XR0YG	10 CW	24-Mar	1501	N0RR					

QSLs Received Recently—

Station	Via
1A0C	D
5T0SP	D
C21TI	D
CY0/WA4DAN	D
FR4NT	D
JD1BLY	D
OM2VL	D
PJ4X	W1MD
YL2KO	D
ZL9HR	D



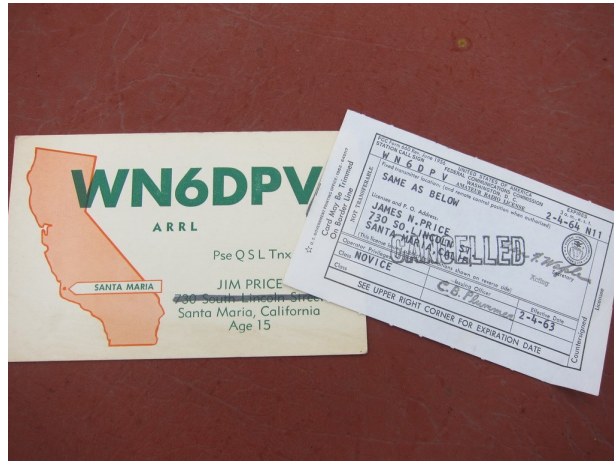
A March 2013 DXpedition

JIM PRICE, K6ZH – 50 YEARS OF HAM RADIO—Part 2



WB6DPV at age 20 in Santa Maria, CA. Rig is Heath HX-11 xmtr plus HG-10 VFO, and RME-6900 rcvr. DX-100 in background was a loaner – and it drifted!

My novice QSL card and license, issued Feb. 4th, 1963.



SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA 1014 S. Speed									
Dayton 20, Ohio									
WA6DRO									
RADIO WN6DPV... Test for QSO of 2-14-63 at 23:45 CMT.									
U-7 Mc CW AM SSB RST 194 Rcvr RST 194 Xmt RST 400 Ant VLF CLE									
Remarks: 73, James B. Wiley, "Jim"									
Pse QSL Tnx									
2-13-63	WA6DRO	X	2130	479	580	21	A	50	2045 First QSO-Jim Wiley
2-14-63	WA6DRO	X	2110	249	—	21	X	X	1600 Jack - lost him
1545	WA6DRO	X	2120	—	—	—	X	X	1615 No answer
2-16-63	WA6DRO	X	2120	349	—	21	X	X	0920 John - Ohio - Lost Him
0920	WA6DRO	X	2120	—	—	—	X	X	0930 No answer
1040	WA6DRO	X	2120	—	—	—	X	X	1105 No answer
1105	WA6DRO	X	2120	—	—	—	X	X	1110 No answer
1405	WA6DRO	X	2120	459	589	21	X	X	1420 George - Dubuque Tower - almost full QSO
2-17-63	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	Alexandria, Va. - lost in QRM
0910	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1015	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1100	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1205	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1315	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1505	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1750	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1815	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
2-18-63	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
1520	WA6DRO	X	2120	589	589	21	X	X	
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI U. S. A.									
WN5EGC									
RADIO WN6DPV... CONFIRMING QSO of 2-14-63 at 23:45 CMT.									
U-7 Mc CW AM SSB RST 194 Rcvr RST 194 Xmt RST 400 Ant VLF CLE									
Remarks: 73 THOMAS W. "TOM" ROANE 731 WILLANEEL DRIVE									
PSE QSL Tnx									



First page of my first log in Feb. 1963. These QSLs, including from Jim WA6DRO (my Elmer and now KL7CC), are for contacts on this page.

K6ZH at age 65 in San Diego. Lots of water under the ham radio bridge in 50 years, and it's all been good!

USS Midway Museum and Tour Tom Ellett – W0NI

The Friday lunch group got a special treat on February 15 when they toured the USS Midway Museum. The “lunch bunch”, including many PARC members, meet at Phil’s BBQ in Pt. Loma. After lunch, they headed to the Midway where Joe Garza – AB6RM was waiting to take the group on an extensive tour of the ship.



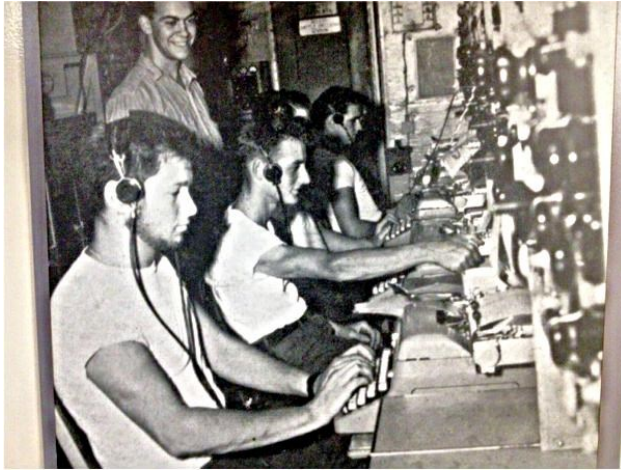
Left to right: Tom/W0NI, Dave/KC6YSO, Paul/K6PKS, Gayle/K6GO, Mike/NA6MB, Nils/KI6TTP, Howard/KY6LA, Rob/WA3IHV, Ron/N6XT, N6XT/Guest, Mitch/K6BK, Joe/AB6RM, and Grant/K6PLR. Front row: David/OK6DJ, daughter and wife.

I was impressed with the Midway when I took a self-guided tour shortly after it opened in 2004. But, Joe’s tour was far more impressive and informative! Our group got to go through some parts of the ship not seen by the general public including the operating ham station NI6IW.



At left, David/OK6DJ visiting San Diego from the Czech Republic was very excited to operate one of three Elecraft K3 160–2M transceivers. On the right, Rob Reichman WA3IHV takes a turn in the operating chair.

The Midway station NI6IW conducts a special event on the second Saturday of the month. On the first weekend in June about ten operators man the station and participate in the all Museum Ships weekend event. They operate SSB on 20M, 40M. Plus PSK31 and other digital modes on 20M, analog FM VHF, and D-STAR to make as many contacts as possible during the six hour event. The station also includes four networked laptops containing the N1MM logging program. The laptops support various programs for centralized logging, digital modes, Internet/Telnet access lines for DX Clusters/Spotting, and call sign look-ups.



At left Operators on the Midway in the 1960's copy CW on a typewriter. Could have been N6KI or WN6K? At right, Paul/K6PKS surveys a large communications panel.

NI6IW also operates the Navy Marine Corps Military Auxiliary Station (MARS) NNN0CQQ using SSB, FM, and digital modes. The MARS station is used to support Department of Defense emergency management communications during exercises or real-world events. The Commander, Navy Region Southwest, is the main user and customer of MARS services.



The Midway's organic antennas are used for HF operations and with this lofty location they play very well indeed. Photos used here were taken by Mitch/K6BK and Conrad/KG6JEI. All rights reserved.

One and One-half Milk Carton Crates

Rick Borken KØXB/6

One and one-half milk carton crates. That's all the space I need to pack my portable station and bring it with me on our drive to California every winter. Well, to be fair, I'm not counting the extra bag I need to carry the antenna, but that's not very big. And, I leave that with our daughter who lives in the area anyway. "One and one-half milk carton crates and a bag" doesn't sound good either.

Most Fridays when I'm in San Diego I join Tom WØNI and his crew at lunch. About one month ago, I was sitting next to Mitch K6BK, and he asked me if I was going to the DX Club meeting. He said people were wondering if I was real, since I am not there most of the time but my call is often mentioned when John K6AM talks about DX standings.

Yes, I am real, and I'm proud to be a member of the club. I'll make a concerted effort to make it to the meetings from now on, when I'm here. In the meantime, I wanted to introduce myself and tell you about the portable setup I use when I'm in California.

My primary QTH is in northern Minnesota, and I spend winters in California. My wife and I moved from Minneapolis to our lake home on Lake Vermilion when I retired a little more than ten years ago. Lake Vermilion is a large lake in the Canadian Shield, which is a vast area of forests and lakes extending from northern Minnesota well into Canada. It's a beautiful place, but we're not crazy. The winters are severe. We don't normally get a great deal of snow, but wintertime temperatures often go below zero. A few years ago, the thermometer hit -40F, and I took a picture. I took another picture when it hit -43F. That's cold.

Before you ask, yes, life goes on when it gets really cold. But I grew up there and spent most of my working life in cold climates. If you haven't experienced extreme cold weather, the best thing for you to do is to stay in southern California.

Anyway, back to ham radio.

I've been an avid DX-er since I was first licensed in 1961. We rent a small house on Coronado, so I can't install anything permanent, and I certainly cannot put up a tower and beam or anything like that. So, my challenge was how to continue my DX-ing with these restrictions. In the rest of this article, I will tell you what I have done and how well it's worked.

The real key to any ham station is of course the antenna. I have always felt a vertical was the best DX antenna, other than a tower and beam, so I use a vertical configuration. My antenna is based on a High Sierra Sidekick, which is a motorized mobile antenna. I mount the motorized coil on a lightweight tripod in the back yard, and I throw out eight 25 ft. radials on the ground. There is only room for four of the radials to be fully extended, but I figure something is better than nothing, so I use all eight. In place of the short whip which comes with the Sidekick, I use a 12 ft. telescoping whip sold by MFJ. The screw threads match perfectly, so it's an easy modification.

With the whip fully extended, it is resonant at 20 meters. Adjusting the motorized coil with a rocker switch in the shack allows me to easily tune down to 80 meters. And shortening some of the telescoping sections allows me to tune it up to 10 meters.

I expected this to work pretty well on 20 through 10 meters, but I have been pleasantly surprised at how well this works on 40 and 30 meters. When there has been a DXpedition somewhere in the Pacific Rim, I have almost always been able to catch them on 40 and/or 30.



For my transceiver, I use an Icom IC-7000. It is a great rig, with 100W output and an amazing amount of features in a very small package. In addition to that, I use a K-5 keyer and a Bencher paddle, a small Diamond SWR/Power meter, a conventional power supply, a small dummy load and a laptop.

ARRL International DX Contest - **Going for the Sweep** by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

When we hear the word “sweep” we normally think of the November Sweepstakes and working all the US and Canadian sections but for the ARRL DX contests, “sweep” means winning on all six bands as a Single-Band entrant. **No one has ever done this.** Larry, K1UO in Maine has won on five of the six bands in W/VE Phone, only missing a 160 meter title, and Joe, W6VNR has been getting closer and closer as ZF2AH.

Joe started his quest with a 10 meter win in 2000. In 2004 he picked up the 20 meter trophy and repeated on 20 meters in 2007. In 2008 he won 80 meters and followed up in 2009 with first place on 160 meters to have won on four of the six bands. He’s tried 15 meters over the years but so far has lost to a South American station every time. In 2010 he placed second behind CR2X on 40 meters and in 2011 he ended up second again but this time to HK1T.

In 2012 he came back to 40 meters, figuring there would be less competition due to more people being on 15 meters to take advantage of Cycle 24’s ascent. As you can see by the Single-Band DX results, not only did ZF2AH win but he clobbered the competition on 40!

With only 15 meters remaining for the full six-pack, will Cycle 24 finally put ZF in the sweet spot before the peak is past? Will K1UO beat him to the finish line on 160 meters? Only time and Ol’ Sol can tell!



Hey Pavel, I thought you said this was the perfect spot for short path to W6

I guess I had the map upside down. The sixes will just have to work us on long path. It’s payback for the easy time they had with NH8S and TX5K.